

THE CLARION. GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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The Legislature.

This body will meet to-day. It is composed of the most part, of thoughtful, discreet, men who will address themselves earnestly to the work which their hands will find to do. The people will watch their proceedings with eager interest; and they will be faithfully reported through the columns of THE CLARION from day to day.

Speaker of the House.

The election for the office resulted in the choice of Hon. B. F. Johnson of Amite, a gentleman of talents and capability as a presiding officer. He was elected after several ballottings over a distinguished and popular competitor, Mr. Fields. Hon. Roderick Seal of Harrison was not a candidate, but received a very flattering complimentary vote. Hon. J. R. McLaughlin also received a number of votes, though not a candidate.

The Reassembling of Congress—What the Country Needs.

After a holiday of three weeks Congress will resume its labors to-day. During the first weeks of the session nothing was done. By common consent the serious work of the session was postponed until after the recess. It must now begin in earnest; and the country will look with deep solicitude to its proceedings. Upon the representatives of the Democracy great responsibility is devolved. They have majorities in both houses and will be held accountable for the measures which they may adopt. First and foremost, the minds of the country are made up on one point. No action should be taken until the people are properly informed. The fight of the session ought to have been closed with the year. They ought to be closed in the forum as well as in the field. The Southern members can well afford to ignore the bloody shirt when it is shaken in their faces, for they have matters of practical import to engage their attention. They have vast business interests to foster and promote. The emergency cannot be best treated by being left alone. But as it is one of immediate concern, if the fight is forced, the Democrats will consult patriotism as well as expediency, by opposing the administration's scheme to stop the coinage of silver and to destroy the Greenback notes. Pledged to bring back the government to first principles, they will oppose the measures of consolidationists, and also strive to introduce economy into the expenditure of public money. The necessary appropriation bills, we trust, will be passed without obstructive or dilatory proceedings; but it does not follow that the democracy should lower their standard in favor of free elections as against the use of the army at the polls, and the employment of marshals and partisan supervisors to interfere with the freedom of the ballot. The issue can best be made by the introduction of separate bills. If they are defeated by the Executive veto, the issue can then be taken up to the highest tribunal for arbitration—the tribunal of the people—divested of the humbugging pretence that the Democrats are endeavoring to starve the government. The conservative sentiment of the country is alarmed by the clamor for Grant and a Third Term—Grant and the Empire—and if the representatives of the Democracy in the federal councils will meet the great responsibility which has been put upon them by the country, wisely and well, a Democratic victory will be assured in the Presidential election.

The President of the St. Louis Exoduster Association has petitioned the Mayor and City Council for aid, saying: "There are about two hundred and fifty families in the city from the South, many of whom are scattered among the families of the resident colored people. All of them require assistance, some of them being entirely helpless and in a condition of great suffering. More than three hundred colored persons are reported as now on the road by steamboat or rail, and there is good reason to think that they will be numbered by thousands before this time and will be early spring. Nearly all of them come in a wretched condition, two thirds being women and children without any definite plan of action or place of destination. They must evidently remain here for a considerable length of time after arrival, simply from want of means to get away."

Now the question arises, who personated these people from the homes where they were well provided with the necessities of life, and were comfortable and would have been happy if left alone—into this wretched and suffering condition here described? And how long are these hapless people to be hoodwinked and imposed upon by designing demagogues?

A Democratic Caucus—Who Should be Admitted.

Col. J. J. Shannon, in Meridian News.) The papers are discussing the question as to whether the Democratic members of the Legislature should hold a caucus to nominate a Senator and other officers to be elected by that body. It is urged against a caucus, that the opposition to the Democracy is so small, that nothing can be gained by it, and that to exclude from participation in the selection of officers the Greenback and Independent members may weaken the party in the Presidential election. We are unable to see the force of this objection. If the Democratic party preserves its organization, we have no fears of the result of that election, and we think a strict adherence to the caucus system, and the usages of the party will be the surest means to carry the State. We are, therefore, in favor of a caucus of the Democratic members of the Legislature to select candidates for every office to be filled by the Legislature. We presume no Greenbacker or Independent would desire to take part in such a caucus; none should be admitted, but those who supported the party ticket at the last election and are known to be in affiliation with the Democratic organization.

It is estimated in New Orleans that the cotton crop will run up to 5,400,000 bales. There is a slight deficiency in Texas and a considerable deficiency in the South Atlantic States, but the territory drained by the Mississippi and its branches will bring in between 400,000 and 500,000 bales more than last year. The estimate is too high.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

JACKSON, MISS., JANUARY 6, 1880.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I cordially welcome you as a co-ordinate branch of the State government, to that participation in its affairs which the Constitution devolves upon you as representatives of the people. A great and sacred trust has been committed to your hands to be administered for the welfare of the entire State, without regard to sectional, class, or party affiliation. I sincerely trust that your deliberations will be characterized by wisdom, peace and harmony, and, earnestly invoking the guidance and assistance of Almighty God, that the result of your labors will be such as to entitle you to His blessings, and to the gratitude of the people you represent.

The year succeeding the adjournment of the last Legislature was attended by disasters unparalleled in the annals of Mississippi. A terrible epidemic, more malignant in its character, and more fatal than ever before known, invaded many sections of the State, spreading death, devastation and gloom wherever it went. Thousands of our fellow citizens fell victims to the dreadful scourge, and in numerous instances whole families were borne away, as it were, to a common grave. Many of our most honored citizens are numbered among the dead. For many months the whole State was a melancholy scene of suffering, desolation and mourning. But in the midst of their distress the charitable world, with unstinted hands, ministers to the relief of our suffering people. From the cities, towns and villages, North, East, West and South, large sums of money and many needed supplies were forwarded to our relief associations; and several large donations were received from foreign countries. The different Masonic bodies, Odd Fellows and other benevolent institutions throughout the country, were most conspicuous and liberal in their deeds of charity; and I was advised of no instance in which the sick suffered for want of money or supplies after their necessities were made known, and they could be reached by any means of transportation.

The relief thus contributed was transported and distributed by railroad, express, and steamboat companies, free of charge; and all correspondence for purposes of relief, or pertaining thereto, was transmitted by telegraph companies upon the same terms. Such generosity on the part of the people everywhere, and the valuable services rendered by the transportation and telegraph companies, claim recognition from the representatives of those who were the beneficiaries of their munificent bounty.

A partial failure of the cotton crop in portions of the State, and the unremunerative prices received for it, created a feeling of discontent among plantation laborers, which, together with other extraneous influences, caused some to abandon their crops in the spring to seek homes in the West. For a time the planting interest in the Mississippi valley was seriously threatened; but the excitement soon subsided and the supply of labor continued about equal to the demand.

During the year just closed, the people, with the exception of those of two or three small villages, have been favored with unusually good health; and a fair yield of the crop, together with the satisfactory price received for it, has, in a great measure, allayed the apprehensions felt on account of the threatened disorganization of the labor system. The trade and industries of the State have greatly revived, and there are unmistakable evidences of returning prosperity. At no time since the close of the war has so general a spirit of contentment prevailed among all classes of our citizens, and all seem to look forward with confidence to a bright and happy future.

With a few exceptions, peace and order have prevailed during the last two years; and the laws for the punishment of crime have, as a rule, been promptly and successfully administered. I desire to bear testimony to the faithfulness with which the Judges, District Attorneys, and other officers charged with the administration of the criminal laws have performed their duties. Too much cannot be said in their commendation.

The political canvass through which we have recently passed was an exciting one, but so far as I am informed the election was peaceable; no serious disturbance having occurred anywhere within the State.

It will devolve upon you as the first Legislature since the adoption of the Constitutional amendment providing for biennial sessions, to adjust the laws regulating the various departments of the State government to the changed order of things. All existing laws were enacted with a view to annual sessions, and the changes required changes must be made. Many annual reports now required by law, may be dispensed with, thereby lessening the expenses, and tending to simplify the operations of the departments.

In performing the duty assigned me by the Constitution to give you information of the state of the government, and to recommend for your consideration such measures as I may deem necessary, I need not make but few recommendations in reference to the general laws of the State, farther than to commend to your careful consideration the various changes proposed in the new Code, which, it is believed, comprises all the general legislation now required.

By an Act of the last Legislature Hon. J. A. P. Campbell was authorized to revise and codify all the laws of the State of a general nature, and to submit the same to the Legislature at its regular session in 1880. In accordance with said Act, Judge Campbell has been diligently engaged in performing the work assigned him, and is now ready to submit the result of his arduous labors to your honorable bodies. No specific manner having been provided for submitting the draft Code to the Legislature, it has been deposited in this office to be transmitted to you at such time, and in such manner, as you may direct.

The Code has been prepared with great care with a view of perfecting the laws so as to meet the wants of all classes; and the eminent ability and large experience of the distinguished jurist who has made the revision, and the zeal with which he has devoted himself to the task, render it quite certain that the work, as it comes from his hands, is as nearly perfect as it can be made. I trust that all amendments proposed to the work will be carefully scrutinized, and not adopted without mature consideration.

The modification of the registration and election laws, dispensing with their complex machinery by abolishing State and County Boards of Registration as now constituted, seems to me a wise and economical provision. The requirements of the Constitution will be met, the registration and election as complete and satisfactory, and at much less expense. The system recommended is believed to be the simplest and least expensive that can be adopted to conform to the constitutional demand.

The amendment of the law in relation to public officers and their duties which contemplates a deputy in office after the death of his principal, seems to be just, since the deputy was accredited to the public by the officer in his lifetime. It will in many instances prevent interruptions in the duties of important offices and promote the public welfare.

The Revenue law is made plain, harmonious, and simple. The provision for the assessment of persons and property which escaped taxation in former years; and for the sale for taxes of lands not sold, from any cause, at the time fixed for the regular sale for taxes, is an important and much needed improvement; and that in relation to the tax on privileges, seems equitable and just. If the principle of imposing a tax on privileges be correct, the amount of tax should be regulated by the extent of the business, and the amount of capital employed.

The simple and easy mode proposed for the enrollment and organization of the militia cannot fail to commend itself to your judgment. The amendments to the laws in relation to the Courts, from Justices of the Peace to the Supreme Court, are intended to perfect the machinery, to make definite and certain some things now open to discussion; to make uniform some matters of practice now variant; to cheapen litigation and secure its results to the party in the right; to enlarge the control of the Chancery Court; and to increase the efficiency of its administration of the affairs of decedents and minors, and persons of unsound mind. The familiarity of Judge Campbell with the Courts qualifies him, in an eminent degree, to perfect the laws for the government; and his recommendations will, I doubt not, commend themselves to your approval.

I earnestly recommend the change proposed to the law in relation to the deposits by foreign insurance companies; and further recommend that you consider the propriety of requiring all foreign insurance companies now doing business in the State, to withdraw their deposits, and replace them with United States bonds. Most of the companies would prefer holding United States securities, and the amount of interest on the deposits would be saved to the State.

wise and well considered. That provision which authorizes a lien on the growing crop, or crop to be grown, has tended greatly to impoverish the mass of the people, and I believe they demand its repeal.

The system proposed by which the standard of juries is to be raised, will remove from the jury box the professional juror, and admit a worthy and intelligent class now excluded. A reform in our jury system is a necessity long and seriously felt, and it is believed that this will fully meet the demand, and tend greatly to promote the ends of justice. In this connection I desire to repeat a recommendation made in my Annual Message to the Legislature of 1878, still believing the cause of justice will be promoted by giving the State the power to change the venue in criminal cases, in the manner contemplated by the Constitution.

A careful inquiry into the various alterations proposed to the laws, convinces me that they are calculated to promote right, prevent wrong, advance justice, and secure the attainment of the best results from the machinery of organized society. I cordially commend the whole work to your careful and favorable consideration.

The best and most expeditious means of considering the Code is a subject of the utmost importance, and should, at once, command your serious attention. My own experience in matters of general legislation suggests the wisdom of raising a joint committee to which the Code shall be delivered, and to which the whole subject shall be committed for investigation and report. I respectfully recommend the adoption of this course, and that Judge Campbell be authorized and requested to appear before the Committee at any and all times for the purpose of explaining any difference that may arise; and if the committee agree, that its reports be adopted without discussion.

In considering the Code of 1871, it was taken up chapter by chapter, and referred to the respective committees of each house, as in the case of other bills. This course elicited much discussion, resulted in numerous unwholesome and incongruous amendments to the laws, and prolonged the session to four months and ten days duration.

The Legislature of 1856, appointed a joint committee of nine on the part of the House of Representatives, and five on the part of the Senate, to which the Code was referred, and its consideration was made the standing order of the day, after 11 o'clock each day, until disposed of. The Legislature remained in session two months and five days, and having finished its labors adjourned. The result was the Revised Code of 1857.

I am informed that a majority of the States in the Union, in revising their laws, have pursued the course here recommended, and with results much more satisfactory than in those States where a different mode of procedure has been adopted.

I respectfully call your attention to the necessity of providing for a suitable index, and for the printing of the Code when completed.

FINANCES.

A general summary from the books of the Auditor of Public Accounts and the State Treasurer, presents a condition of the finances highly satisfactory, and shows the revenue of the last two years to have been amply sufficient to meet all demands upon the Treasury.

The Treasurer's report for 1878 furnishes the following exhibit:

On warrants.....	\$ 933,259 87
On bonds issued.....	337,150 00
Total receipts.....	\$1,270,409 87

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrants paid and canceled.....	\$ 720,079 45
Bonds paid and canceled.....	148,500 00
Compons paid and canceled.....	26,688 00
Emmett bank-tax paid back.....	2,635 00
Total disbursements.....	\$953,417 68
Warrants outstanding Dec. 31, 1878.....	401,516 09

FOR 1879.—RECEIPTS.

On warrants.....	\$ 558,802 15
On bonds issued.....	106,650 00
Total receipts.....	\$ 665,452 15

DISBURSEMENTS.

Warrants paid and canceled.....	\$ 568,019 88
Bonds paid and canceled.....	150,600 00
Compons paid and canceled.....	39,565 00
Certificate of indebtedness.....	2,635 00
Total disbursements.....	\$760,819 88
Warrants outstanding December 31st, 1879.....	\$386,823 02

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE STATE.

Due Chickasaw school fund.....	\$815,229 11
Due interest on same.....	16,156 61
Due common school fund.....	817,646 46
Warrants outstanding.....	386,823 02
Certificate of indebtedness.....	2,635 00
Bonds due January 1st, 1880.....	150,000 00
Bonds due January 1st, 1881.....	150,000 00
Bonds due January 1st, 1882.....	125,000 00
Bonds due January 1st, 1883.....	100,000 00
Bonds due January 1st, 1886.....	227,150 00
Interest on Bonds.....	33,577 50
Interest due on Insurance Deposits.....	16,306 24
Railroad Tax distributive.....	17,891 79
Common School Fund, distributive, about.....	120,000 00

Total Indebtedness.....	\$2,908,745 73
From the foregoing, the following deductions may be made, to show the actual amount of debt the State owes, and is required to pay:	
Chickasaw School Fund.....	\$815,229 11
Common School Fund.....	\$1,617,646 46
Warrants in the Treasury, owned by the State, and included in outstanding warrants.....	185,267 77
Cash balance in the Treasury, Dec. 31, 1879.....	800,757 13
Total.....	\$2,618,900 47

Thus it will be seen that the actual indebtedness of the State, including the Agricultural Land Serp Fund, \$227,150 00, in 5 per cent. bonds, due January 1886, is \$379,485 26.

This shows a decrease of the debt during the last two years, of about \$220,000 00.

There are remaining in the Treasury, uncurrent worthless funds, accumulated during the war, amounting to \$795,936 48, and a counterfeit one hundred dollar note, received by the present Treasurer from his predecessor. I respectfully recommend such legislation as will authorize the Treasurer to cancel these amounts, and remove them from his books.

I also recommend the passage of an Act to cancel the indebtedness of the State to the Common School Fund, which amounts to \$37,572 67. This amount stands on the books to the credit of the Common School Fund, while no interest is paid upon it, and the Schools are supported by direct taxation. Since the constitutional amendment of 1876, there can be no objection to the passage of such an Act. I further submit that it would be well to make some disposition of the Railroad warrants held by the State, and reported as outstanding. Should the foregoing items be expunged from the accounts of the Auditor and Treasurer, their books will show correctly the financial condition of the State.

In May last, I received from the United States Treasury Department, of the two per cent. fund, \$2,405 92; and of the three per cent. fund, \$5,698 88, which I paid into the Treasury. Subsequently, a formal demand was made upon me by the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad Company for the amount in the Treasury to the credit of the two per cent. fund. This I declined, and the amounts remain in the Treasury, to the credit of the respective funds.

The attention of the Legislature has been repeatedly called to a large quantity of land on the roll of Tallahatchie county, held in trust by the State, on account of Levee District No. 1. Taxes are due on these lands since 1874, and I recommend that some provision be made by which they may be sold, so as to divest the lien of the Levee Board, and perfect the title to the State. This matter is fully explained by the Auditor in his report, to which I invite your special attention.

There is much complaint from some of the counties in the levee districts, on account of oppressive taxation. The subject demands your attention, and if any relief can be afforded, I doubt not that the proper remedy will be applied.

For the detailed operations of the Financial Department of the Government, I respectfully refer you to the reports of the Auditor of Public Accounts and State Treasurer, which will be transmitted to you at an early day.

COMMISSIONER OF SWAMP LANDS.

The Commissioner of Swamp Lands has sold, since his last report, about ten thousand acres of land, under the Act of February 1st, 1877, and has issued patents for about the same quantity, under the Act of 1853, as authorized by said Act of February 1st, 1877.

From his report it will be seen that the United States

Government has sold 59,640 acres of land, for which the State is entitled to indemnity, amounting to \$52,515 00. The State is also entitled to about 30,000 acres in lieu of lands which the Government has permitted to be located; and there are 387,259 acres confirmed to the State, for which no patent has been issued.

I recommend that provision be made for sending an agent to Washington for the purpose of obtaining from the General Land Office, the patents, scrip, or money, due the State for swamp lands.

The Commissioner is thoroughly acquainted with the business of his Department, and I commend to your favorable attention the recommendations made in his report.

REVENUE AGENT.

For the transactions in the office of the Revenue Agent I respectfully refer you to the report of that officer.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

Hon. Kinlock Falconer, Secretary of State, died on the 23d day of September, 1878. During the prevalence of the epidemic, the duties of the office were faithfully performed by Mr. D. E. Porter; and on the 15th of November, I appointed Henry C. Myers for the unexpired term. He qualified on the 27th of November, and has discharged the duties of the office in a most satisfactory manner. His report will acquaint you with the details of the office.

STATE LIBRARY.

The State Library is in excellent condition, and has been admirably kept during the last two years.

The report of the Librarian will put you in possession of all necessary information relative to its details.

EDUCATION.

I am gratified to be able to state to you that our system of Public Education continues to meet with the approval of the great mass of the people. A lively interest is manifested in the cause of education, and there is a general disposition to maintain and improve the public schools. I commend the system to your fostering care, and it will afford me pleasure to co-operate with you in all proper measures for its advancement.

I regret that a failure on the part of the Superintendent of Public Education to receive, in time, reports from the different counties, renders it impossible to communicate to you the information I desire to give on this important subject; but the Superintendent's report will furnish all necessary details, and that officer is better acquainted with the workings of our school system, and its necessities, than any one else can be. His report will be laid before you in due time, and I invite your careful attention to his suggestions and recommendations.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

The University, standing at the head of the educational institutions of the State, is still in a prosperous condition. During the year 1878, there were admitted 329 students; from January 1st to December 1st, 1879, 422. There are now in the University 354 students, as follows: Law Students, 18; Under Graduates, 394; and Post Graduates, 2. The Faculty consists of a Chancellor, eight Professors, 1 Principal of High School, and 3 Tutors. With the present number of students, and the number likely to be present in the future, the teaching force must necessarily be increased, and some additional recitation rooms will be required. It seems quite certain that the wants of the Institution can not be met for the next two years without an increased appropriation. Some additional appropriations will also be required for the library, for the chemical and philosophical departments, and for additional buildings and repairs.

The Board of Trustees will meet during the present month, to make known to you the necessities of the University, and I ask, at your hands, a careful and favorable consideration of the same.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

This Institution was established by an Act of the Legislature, approved February 25th, 1878. The Board of Trustees having been appointed as required by Section 3 of the Act, organized and proceeded to procure a site for the location of the College, as contemplated by Section 12; but the operations of the Board were interrupted by the appearance of yellow fever in the State, and the location was not made until the following winter. The College having been located at Starkville, in Oktibbeha county, the Board of Trustees selected a site for the buildings, and purchased three hundred and fifty acres of land, at a cost of \$2,450 00. An architect was employed, plans and specifications drawn, and sealed proposals for the erection of the building invited. The contract was awarded to Mr. C. M. Rubush, of Vaiden, Mississippi, and he commenced the work in the latter part of July, 1879. The building, which is now almost complete, is large and commodious, comprising all the improvements of modern architecture, and when finished will cost something over \$16,000 00. Under the supervision of the able and experienced architect, Mr. Alfred Zucker, of the firm of Moses & Zucker, of Vicksburg, the contractor has faithfully performed his work, and the building is believed to be, by far, the best ever erected in the State, for that amount.

Donations from the citizens of Starkville and vicinity, and the interest on the Agricultural Land Serp Fund, have been used by the Trustees for the purchase of land, and the construction of the building. The limited means at the command of the Trustees did not warrant them in contracting for any other improvements, and they confidently await the action of your honorable body.

Section 14, of the Act establishing the College, provides: "That in order to establish financial equality in all respects between these two Colleges, a sum equal to the amount heretofore appropriated to Alcorn University out of the principal arising from the sale of said Land Serp, is hereby appropriated to the College provided for by section 2 of this Act, and the Trustees thereof, shall be authorized to use the same in carrying out the provisions of this Act for the benefit of said College."

Upon investigation, the Board of Trustees failed to discover any practical means by which any part of the principal of the Fund could be made available for their purposes without further legislation, and the whole amount remains in the Treasury.

The Agricultural College is an institution much needed in the State, and it is believed that if the necessary means be provided for putting it into practical operation, it will soon become an honor to the State, and a blessing to the industrial classes of Mississippi. Its leading object will be to teach such branches as relate to Agriculture and the Mechanic arts, but other scientific and classical studies will not be excluded. The farmers of the State have manifested unusual interest in the success of the institution, and there is certainly no class of our citizens whose claims are entitled to more consideration at your hands.

The Board of Trustees will be in session in Jackson some time during the present month, and will make known to your honorable body the prospects and necessities of the institution. They will ask for an appropriation sufficient to enable them to carry out the objects and purposes of the law, and to commence the school by the 1st of September next.

I confidently believe that the subject will receive that consideration which its importance demands, and that you will deal liberally with the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

ALCORN AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

Section 3, of the Act to establish Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges, provides for the appointment of a new Board of Trustees for this institution, in the same manner as that for the Agricultural and Mechanical College is required to be appointed; but having a few days prior to the passage of the Act, appointed a Board composed of the best citizens in the vicinity of the College, and mainly of farmers; and those appointments having been confirmed by the Senate, I came to the conclusion, after consulting several members of the Legislature, that it was not the intention of the framers of the law that this Board should be distributed, and consequently I did not conform to that requirement of the Act.

In the interest of economy, and for the best interests of the institution, I recommend that so much of Section 2, of the Act as relates to Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College be repealed. I also recommend the repeal of so much of Section 1 as changes the name of the institution.

Notwithstanding the opening of the school in the fall of 1878 was delayed by the prevailing epidemic until the middle of November, there were one hundred and twenty-seven students in attendance in the month of January following. The present session commenced September 5th, 1879. There are now more students present than for several years at a corresponding time of the session, and it is believed that within a short time after the Christmas holidays, the institution will be filled to its utmost capacity. The teachers are learned, experienced and faithful; and the school is conducted on the most economical principles. Under the mess system, the students board themselves for one dollar per week; and their whole expenses need not be more than twenty cents each, per day.

In his report to me dated December 18, Dr. Reynolds

says: "In view of the repairing of buildings, making of fences and other improvements that must be attended to next year, some increase in the appropriation will be necessary. I think fully one thousand dollars will be required for these purposes." I recommend that the additional appropriation be made.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

This school is reported to be in a prosperous condition, and is accomplishing much good in the education of the colored youths of the State. I witnessed some of the commencement exercises last June, and was favorably impressed with the advancement of the students, as well as the proficiency of the teachers and the general conduct of the institution.

I recommend the usual appropriation, with the additional amount of five hundred dollars for the purchase of apparatus and books for the library.

TONGALOO UNIVERSITY.

The Trustees of the Normal department of Tongaloo University report the institution more prosperous than ever before.

Owing to disagreements between the representatives of the American Missionary Association and the Trustees of the Normal department, no appropriation was made for the last two years. I repeat my recommendation to the Legislature two years ago, that the law be so amended as to abolish the Board of Trustees, and provide for a Board of Visitors. The Normal department is doing faithful work in the education of Teachers, and deserves well of the State. I recommend a renewal of the appropriations heretofore made for its support, to be disbursed under the direction of the Board of Visitors. That would be a substantial recognition of the good work which the American Missionary Association is quietly, but very zealously and thoroughly doing in our State.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

The reports of the Trustees and Officers of the several Charitable Institutions of the State, will place you in possession of such information as may be necessary to a thorough understanding of their condition and wants. These institutions have been established, and are maintained at great expense; and while a liberal and humane people look with pride upon those monuments of their generosity, and demand all reasonable measures to ameliorate the condition of their unfortunate inmates, they require the utmost care and economy in their management. First in importance of these institutions, is the

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The number of patients under treatment during the year 1878, was four hundred and ninety-eight. Out of this number there were forty-four deaths; forty-four discharges, most of which were recoveries, and two escapes. During the year 1879, the number under treatment was about equal to that of the year before. There were thirty-two deaths, and thirty-five discharges. The Institution is in excellent condition, and has been as well and economically managed during the last two years as could possibly be done.

The large death rate during the year 1878, was probably attributable to the excessive heat of the summer. The deaths of both years were mainly from consumption and epilepsy. Many of the cases of long standing, and the patients worn out with age and disease. I am informed by the Medical Superintendent, that there are now thirty applicants for admission who cannot be accommodated for want of room. This number will necessarily increase, as the discharges from all causes do not keep pace with the increasing demand for admission. Owing to the increased number of patients since the spring of 1878, and the recent advance in the prices of supplies, it will be impossible to support the Asylum for the next two years without an increased appropriation. There are on the books of the institution, the names of many patients who are required to pay for board and treatment, but very few actually pay, and in a majority of such cases it is found most difficult to collect anything.

I respectfully recommend that the Asylum be made free to all the citizens of the State needing its benefits.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

The Deaf and Dumb Institute is in a prosperous condition. There are more students in attendance at this time, than ever before at a corresponding time of the session; and a decided improvement is shown by the fact that thirteen new students entered during the year 1879, more than half the number being under the age of thirteen years. The average number of pupils in attendance during the year 1878, was forty-five. The average number during the year 1879, was forty-three. There are now in the school forty-four pupils, with several more expected within a short time.

The expenditures for the year 1878, were a little less than the amount appropriated; but for the year 1879, they exceeded the appropriation, covering the unexpended balance of last year. The consequence of the recent advance in the price of supplies, the accounts of the year cannot be closed without a small deficit. With supplies at the present prices the institution cannot be maintained without a small increase of the appropriation over that of the last two years. The buildings are at the present time, in good condition, but a small appropriation will be necessary for repairs during the next two years.

The new wing was completed at a cost of \$3,247 50, and the balance of the appropriation for building purposes has been judiciously expended by the Board of Trustees in necessary repairs upon the main building.

There should be an additional employee in the Institution to instruct the girls in handicraft. There are thirty girls in the school, most of them in very moderate circumstances, and all anxious to be taught the art of cutting and stitching garments, and the use of the sewing machine. The Trustees have the authority to employ such teacher, but have felt that the appropriations were insufficient to justify the outlay. I am also of the opinion, that, as early as practicable, work-shops should be erected, in which the boys may be taught such trades as are adapted to their condition. In the western suburbs of